

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, WO-103

other names _____

2. Location

street & number 103 Market Street

☐ not for publication

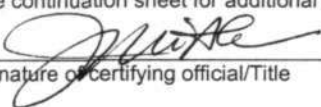
city or town Snow Hill

☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21863

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).


Signature of certifying official/Title

9-30-08
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, WO-103

Name of Property

Worcester County, Maryland

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility/church

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility/church

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic/HighVictorian Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1888-89

Significant Dates

1888-89

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pursell, Isaac, architect

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, WO-103
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County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	4 6 5 5 0 7	4 2 2 5 3 8 3
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

Organization Private Consultant

date 10.27.05

street & number Cedar Hill, Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland

zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church

street & number 115 Franklin Street

telephone 410-632-1698

city or town Snow Hill

state Maryland

zip code 21863

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Description Summary:

The Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, erected in 1888-89, stands on the south side of West Market Street in the center of Snow Hill, the seat of Worcester County, Maryland. The High Victorian Gothic brick church faces northwest, and a walled cemetery surrounds the building on the south and west. Built on a partially excavated foundation, the main body of the church is a cruciform planned structure enhanced by front entrance towers of differing heights. The northwest tower is three stories tall, including a belfry in the uppermost stage, whereas the southwest tower is two stories tall. Both towers are topped by octagonal broach spires which are further enhanced with metal clad pinnacles topped by fleur-de-lis inspired finials. The stretcher bond brick main block extends to the southeast with a single-story hip roofed wing, which is extended further east by a mid twentieth-century flat roofed addition that houses Sunday School rooms. Another appendage, built off the northeast side of the north tower in the early 1990s, houses a wheelchair lift. The main body of the church features a wide variety of pointed arch window and door openings. Three of the four legs of the cruciform plan are dominated by original colored glass windows of figurative and geometric designs. The window and door openings are accented with rusticated brownstone lintels and arches. The interior retains much of its late nineteenth-century character with an exposed hammer-beam truss roof, supported in part by two cast iron columns. The church cemetery, enclosed by a brick wall erected during the early twentieth century, includes a range of markers dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

General Description:

The Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, designed by Philadelphia architect Isaac Pursell (1853-1910), stands at 103 Market Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story Gothic brick and stone church faces northwest with a principal ridge of the cruciform shaped roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in 1888-89 on a partially excavated foundation of rusticated red sandstone, the brick walls of the church are laid in stretcher bond and rise to steeply pitched roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The northwest elevation is an asymmetrical façade with the gable-front of the northwest leg of the plan pierced by a large colored glass Gothic arched window opening accented with rusticated red sandstone sill and arch blocks. The brick wall surface above the window is enriched with decorative corbelled brickwork. Trimming the edge of the roof is an ogee curved metal bargeboard. The cruciform shape of the main church is flanked by two towers of unequal heights that fill the front corners of the cross-shaped plan. The northeast tower is three stories tall and includes a principal entrance, belfry and octagonal spire, whereas the

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southwest tower is two stories high with a shorter octagonal tower. The towers feature brick buttresses with red sandstone accents, and Gothic arched openings define each floor level. The door openings are fitted with heavy oak doors hung on fancy, scrolled iron hinges. Fixed in the base of the northwest tower is a marble datestone. The second level of each tower is defined by three narrow lancet windows, also fitted with colored glass and accented with rusticated stone. The third story, or belfry, of the northwest tower is pierced by large Gothic arched openings fitted with louvers and a round multi-lobed opening in the apex of the Gothic arches. Both towers are sheathed in slate and are enhanced by four metal clad pinnacles topped by fleur-de-lis shaped finials. The edges of the octagonal towers, as well as a middle band halfway up each tower, are covered in metal. Various metal cresting and finials mark the tops of each spire.

The southwest side elevation of the main block is dominated by the large gable roofed elevation and Gothic arched window, however, the rusticated stone arch blocks were omitted around the perimeter of the window. The sill is rusticated red sandstone. Directly adjacent (north) of the gable end elevation is a Gothic arched opening filled with a double width window of figurative colored glass. To the south of the main gable, the side of the rear hipped roof wing protrudes forward of the sanctuary block to include a rear Gothic arched door opening in the narrow north face of the wing, and a southwest wall is pierced by a tripartite colored glass window as well as a narrow lancet style opening.

The southeast side of the main block is covered by a single-story hip roofed wing that houses a congregation hall and Sunday School room. Built at the same time as the sanctuary, the rectangular wing is surrounded on two sides by a mid twentieth century addition that houses additional Sunday School rooms, kitchen, bathrooms, etc.

Flanking the church on its southeast and southwest sides is a large cemetery dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries and containing significant examples of funerary carving. The cemetery is enclosed by a brick wall of mid twentieth century date.

The sanctuary occupies a modified tee-shaped space created by the cruciform shaped main block. The interior is dominated by an exposed darkly stained yellow pine roof truss system crafted in a Gothic format with trefoil pierced openings. Two iron columns with bracketed ornament support the ends of two trusses in the center of the sanctuary. The trusses rise from each corner and meet at a center point in the top of the sanctuary that is embellished with a square carved and pierced wooden apex ornament enhanced with a drop pendant, also of wood. The interior is dominated by the memorial colored glass windows of figurative and geometrical designs. The southwest window was installed in memory of Eleanora E. Richardson (1829-1888). The large window across the sanctuary on the northeast side was created in honor

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of Henrietta E. W. Smith (1808-1884), and the northwest window facing Market Street memorializes John Richardson. A smaller double window on the southwest side honors John Selby Martin, minister to the Snow Hill congregation, as well as his wife, Rebecca Grace Martin. The northeast double window is inscribed with the name Elizabeth Townsend. The sanctuary retains original Gothic lights as well as period hardware on doors. The perimeter of the sanctuary is trimmed with beaded board wainscoting, and the plastered walls above the wainscoting are painted an off-white with a stenciled border. The center of the sanctuary is filled with four blocks of semi-circular oak pews enhanced with Gothic carved ends. The raised pulpit is furnished with Gothic inspired pulpit and seating. The pews and altar furniture date from the 1888-89 construction period.

The interior of the rear church hall/Sunday School room is relatively plain in contrast to the sanctuary. A tripartite set of colored glass windows pierces the southwest wall of the common room.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church is eligible under Criterion C for its architecture, and under Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties, as a well-preserved example of High Victorian Gothic church design and representative of the work of Philadelphia architect Isaac Pursell (1853-1910). The period of significance, 1888-1889, encompasses the dates of construction, by which time the church had achieved its current form and appearance. Pursell designed church buildings for a variety of Protestant denominations during the late Victorian era; many of his designs were expressions of the Gothic. He provided plans and specifications for churches and manses for the Presbyterian Board of Church Erection; his employment by the Snow Hill congregation probably followed a recommendation by officials in the Presbytery of Philadelphia. The majority of Pursell's projects, which included residential, institutional and commercial buildings, as well as churches, were located in and around Philadelphia and southern New Jersey. The Makemie Memorial Church is the only known example of his work on the Delmarva Peninsula south of Wilmington, Delaware, and one of two projects in the State of Maryland—the other being the College Avenue Baptist Church in Annapolis (1905; demolished).

Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church is one of the finest and most elaborate examples of Victorian Gothic church design on the lower Eastern Shore. Built of brick and dressed stone shipped from Baltimore, the roughly cruciform shaped main block is dominated by flanking towers of unequal height enhanced with pointed arch doors and windows. The cross-plan sanctuary is illuminated by intricately crafted colored glass windows of figurative and geometric designs. The roof is supported by a decorated hammer-beam truss roof system supported in part by cast iron columns. The original church furniture—curved pews and intricately carved altar furniture—are original to the 1888-89 construction as well. The church retains an exceptionally complete archive; original receipts, ledgers, and daybooks document the construction process. Materials and resources were provided by a variety of businesses; supplies and workers were transported by rail and steamboat from distant sources. As a result, this church provides a rare and compelling insight into the building process during the industrial age, representing a small rural congregation that looked outside its local community for the design and construction of a new edifice.

Contributing to the church property is the cemetery, which contains congregant burials dating from the mid eighteenth century, when the first church occupied the property. This church is the fourth structure to serve the Snow Hill Presbyterian congregation, and the third one to define this site on Market Street. With the construction of the Victorian church, the

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congregation was renamed Makemie Memorial to honor Presbyterianism's early evangelist and leading light, the Reverend Francis Makemie (1658-1708).

Resource History and Historic Context:

As portrayed in the surviving archive of private records, the 1888-89 construction of Makemie Memorial Church is the best documented building project on the lower Eastern Shore. Surviving in the church papers are hundreds of records including daybooks, receipts, lists of materials, names of laborers, and even freight costs for shipments that thoroughly detail the process of erecting this finely crafted Victorian Gothic church. A preliminary meeting prior to the start of construction was mentioned in the March 10, 1888 issue of the *Democratic Messenger*. The article related:

We learn that arrangements are being made to commence work early this spring on the Makemie Memorial Church to be erected in town. The Building Committee held a meeting on last Thursday and decided to push the work along as rapidly as possible. Mr. Purcell (sic), the Philadelphia architect, who has been employed by the committee was present and submitted a plan which was determined upon. The committee also concluded to employ a master mason to superintend the work. The plan is a novel one after the Gothic style of architecture.¹

Isaac Pursell was hired by the Snow Hill congregation, surely by way of a recommendation from the Philadelphia presbytery, for whom he worked in providing plans and specifications for many churches and manses. His churches are well known in the greater Philadelphia region, but Makemie Church is the only example of his work on the Delmarva Peninsula south of Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Pursell's skilled hand at proportion and detail is evident through the church. He and his skills were summarized in 1889:

Mr. Pursell is a thoroughly qualified and able architect who has evinced great skill and ability in the practice of his profession; designing and superintending the construction of many prominent buildings not only in Philadelphia but all across the United States. He has made a specialty of schools and churches. Many of the buildings erected by this responsible architect are much admired for their beauty. The elaboration of detail and care bestowed upon every department of the work reflects the utmost credit on the skill and judgment of this popular gentleman.²

¹ *Democratic Messenger*, 10 March 1888.

² *Illustrated Philadelphia: Its Wealth and Industries*, 1889, p. 129 as quoted in Tatman, Sandra L. *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project*, 2005.

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Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Isaac Pursell got his early architectural training and experience in the office of Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan (1815-1884), whose career included authoring several influential volumes on design and construction during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Pursell opened an independent office in Philadelphia in 1878.³ One of Isaac Pursell's principal competitors in designing Protestant churches was Charles Bolton. Among Pursell's best known and important designs in the Philadelphia region include Christ's Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Heidelberg Reformed Church, Spring Garden Unitarian Church and the First Presbyterian Church at Haddonfield, New Jersey. Pursell had a prolific career that also included schools, institutions, and private residences.⁴

Work on the Market Street site began with tearing down the 1795 church and salvaging the bricks for use as infill for the new structure. The 1795 building was located well back from the road at the crest of the small hill that distinguished the lot. Its location is clearly evident on the Snow Hill town map published in 1877. Centered on the narrow lot well back from the street, the brick church was accessed by a walkway flanked by cemetery stones.⁵ In planning for the new church it was decided to reposition the structure directly on Market Street, and the site of the previous building was then converted to plots for burials. Demolishing the old church and cleaning the bricks were itemized in an invoice submitted by the Snow Hill firm, Richardson, Moore & Smith, at a cost of \$218.08.⁶

An initial shipment of new brick from Baltimore arrived on the Snow Hill wharf in mid-May 1888, according to the *Democratic Messenger*:

*The schooner, George S. Richardson, arrived here last Wednesday morning loaded with the finishing brick for the Makemie Memorial Church to be erected this summer. The schooner brought 45,000 very large and handsome bricks from the kilns of William Perot, Baltimore. In architectural beauty, the church will not be surpassed on the Eastern Shore.*⁷

Materials came from far and wide for this immense construction project, although many of the carpenters and masons were from the region. In the week ending August 25, 1888, wages

³ Sandra L. Tatman, "Isaac Pursell (1853-1910), Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project. 2005.

⁴ American Architects' Biographies, "Isaac Pursell"

John L. Graham, et al. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

⁶ Invoice from Richardson, Moore & Smith, dated 1888, Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church Archive.

⁷ *Democratic Messenger*, 19 May 1888. Microfilm at the Worcester County Library, Snow Hill.

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were paid to two dozen workmen, and the roster is filled with local names. Master carpenter Charles R. Jones was assisted by William H. Richardson, Charles Williams, Zadock Duffy, Bill Purnell, William C. Bratten, and John Holland. Mastermason A. W. Lankford was aided by Byrd Lankford, James McAllen, L. Vincent, William Bounds, Washington Pusey, Charles D. Johnson and several other masons, apprentices, and laborers.

As the brick walls and towers rose behind the timber scaffolding, the roughly cruciform shaped structure became evident. The slate roof of the church was installed by the Baltimore firm, M. Gault & Son, who wrote to treasurer Levi Purnell in March 1889, "Your check for one thousand dollars on account of the Makemie Church work received today. Accept our thanks for same. It comes to us when much needed."⁸ The interior roof truss system is supported by two iron columns that came most likely by rail from the Philadelphia Ironworks of Samuel J. Creswell.⁹ Another Philadelphia-based supplier was the Keystone Stained Glass Works, who sent craftsmen to install the dramatically beautiful memorial windows. The proprietor of the company, H. J. Smith, wrote to committeeman, George W. Covington, "If my men should need any money for expenses, freight, etc. will you kindly let them have it and charge to my account." The intricately carved Gothic altar furniture and semi-circular blocks of pews came from much farther away, shipped to Snow Hill surely by way of the railroad from the Globe Furniture Company of Northville, Michigan.

Further enhancing the 1880s interior was decorative wall painting that has not survived intact. The work of decorative artist and Snow Hill resident Edward Boehm and his two assistants, C. W. and F. Russell, is recorded in a receipt that covers the period between January and April 1888, with a final touch-up in September 1889. The extent of the decorative painting in the sanctuary is unknown.

Contemporary with the main body of the sanctuary is a single story rear wing that housed the multi-purpose church hall/Sunday School rooms. Around 1950 a single story addition was attached to the back of the church. Within the last twenty years a small Gothic inspired entry for disabled access was designed sensitively and built off the northwest side of the north tower. Since that time, other than the replacement of the slate roof with asphalt shingles, the church has remained essentially unchanged from its Victorian design.

The history of the Snow Hill Presbyterian church dates from the late seventeenth century, when Francis Makemie, for whom the church is a memorial, organized early Presbyterian meetings in what was then Somerset County. In addition to the Snow Hill church, he started or

⁸ Invoice from M. Gault & Son, dated 3.9.1889, Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church Archive, Snow Hill.

⁹ Invoice from Samuel J. Creswell, dated 9.12.1888, Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church Archive, Snow Hill.

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inspired several other congregations, including one at Rehobeth, also on the Pocomoke River, another at the head of the Manokin River, one on the Wicomico, and yet another in Accomack County, Virginia.

The original Snow Hill church, "a plain building thirty feet long," is thought to have been built during the 1680s on a site along the Pocomoke. By the 1740s this early building had been replaced with a frame structure erected on a new site, which Adam Spence, Thomas Milbourn, and Matthew Hopkins had purchased on June 8, 1748. Transferred for \$12, Lot 32 was described at the time as

All that Lot or Parcel of Land in Snowhill Town in the said County of Worcester Whereon the protestant Presbyteriann Dissenting meeting House hath been Lately Built and now Standeth Called and Known by the Name of Lot Number thirty two—according to the Survey thereof Lately made.¹⁰

In 1795 the congregation decided to replace the 1740s frame building with a brick structure that served the congregation for nearly 100 years, until the Victorian church was begun in 1887.

¹⁰ Worcester County Land Record, B/78, 8 June 1748, John Martin to Adam Spence, Thomas Milbourn, and Matthew Hopkins, Worcester County Couthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Democratic Messenger, various issues, Worcester County Library, Snow Hill.

Graham, John L. et al. The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Records, Receipts, and Ledgers of the Makemie Memorial Church, 1888-1889, Makemie Memorial Church Archive.

Record and Gazette, various issues, Worcester County Library, Snow Hill.

Tatman, Sandra L. *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings: Pursell, Isaac (1853-1910)*, 2003.

Touart, Paul Baker, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Worcester County Commissioners, 1994.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Worcester County Land Record, B/78, 8 June 1748. Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

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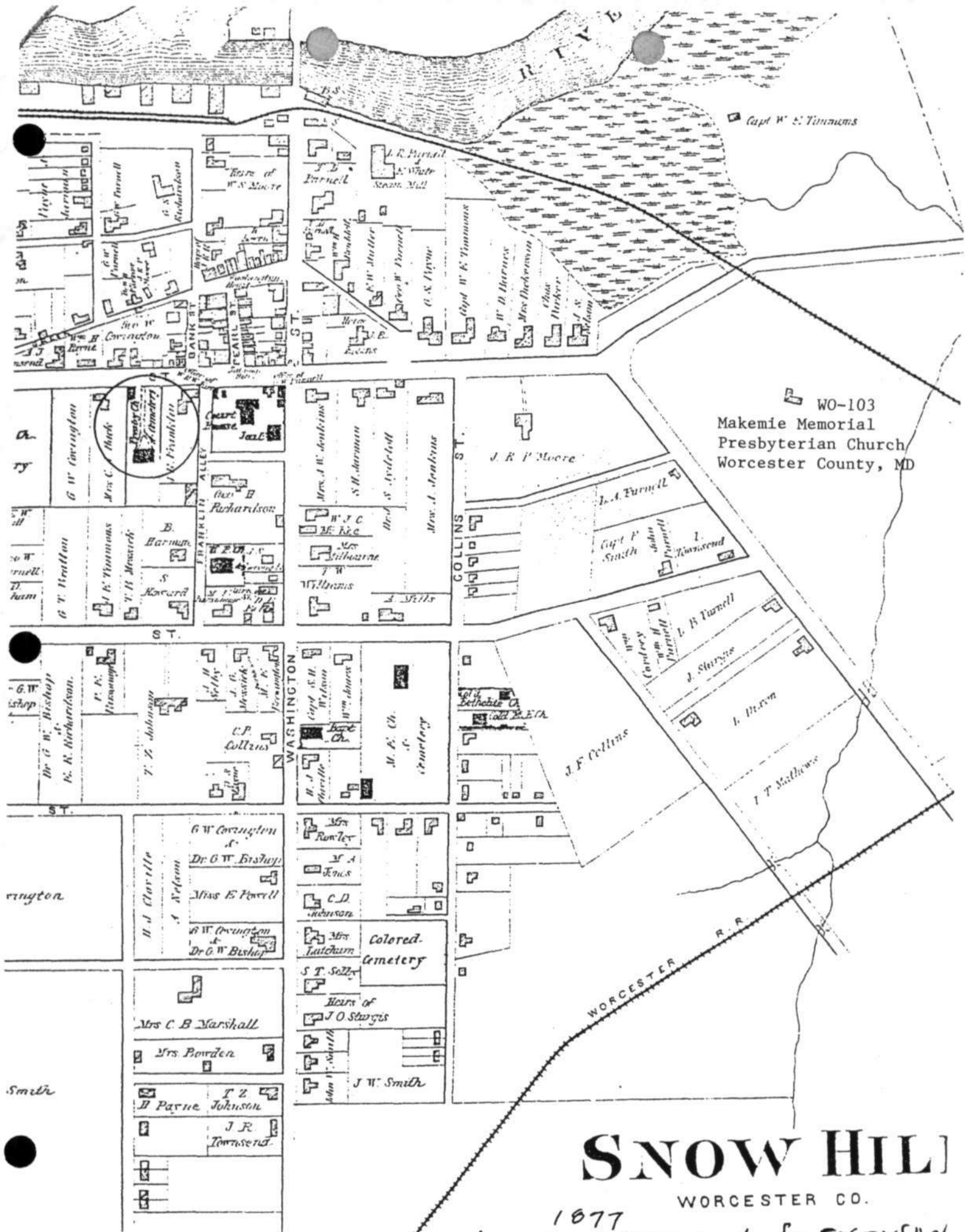
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Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is indicated as Parcel 602 on Worcester County Tax Map 200.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary delineated in this nomination coincides with the current property lines of the church lot—including the nominated church and surrounding cemetery—and at the same time separates the church lot from the adjacent lots that are not associated with this nomination.



WO-103
Makemie Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Worcester County, MD

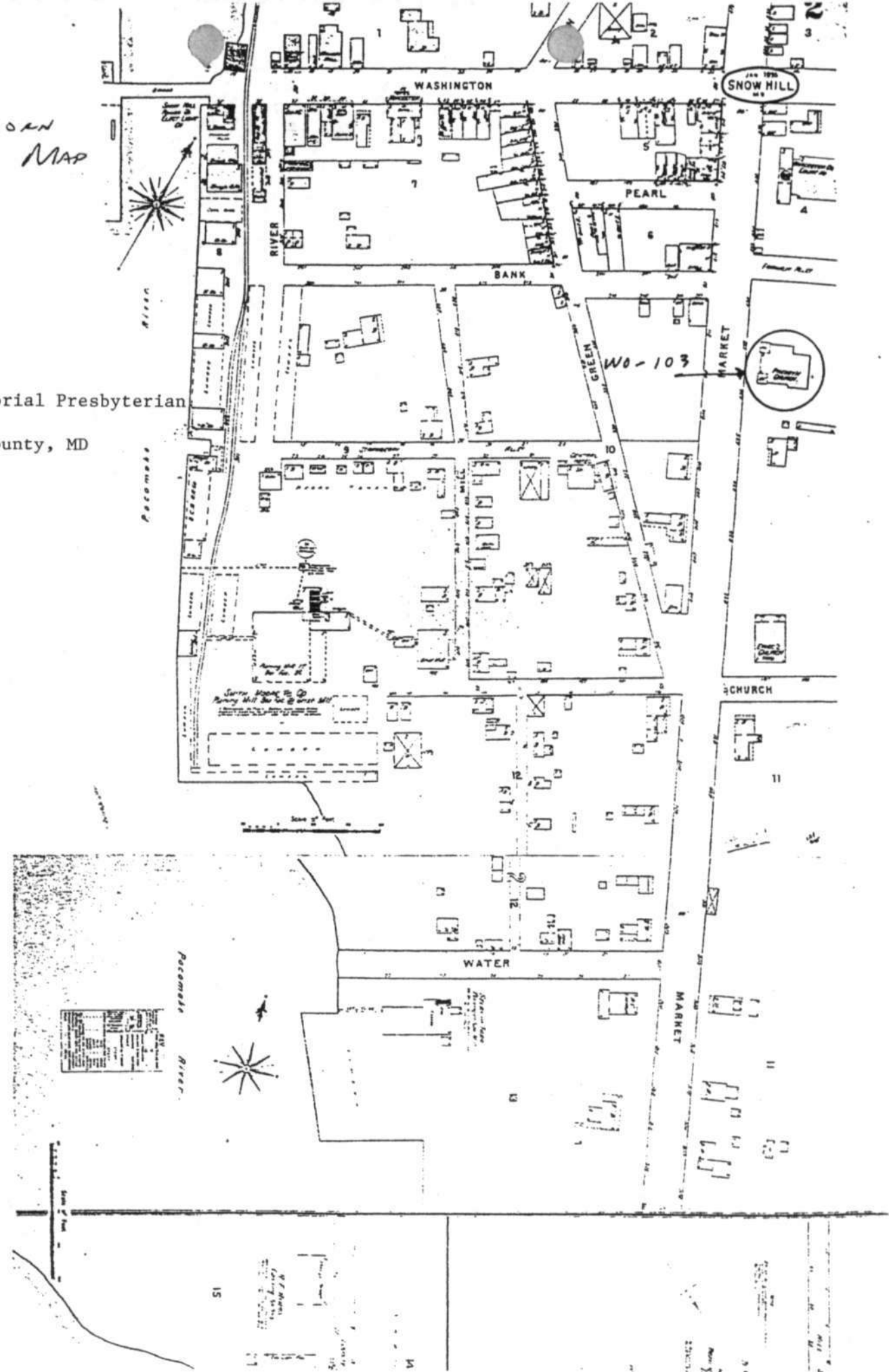
SNOW HILL

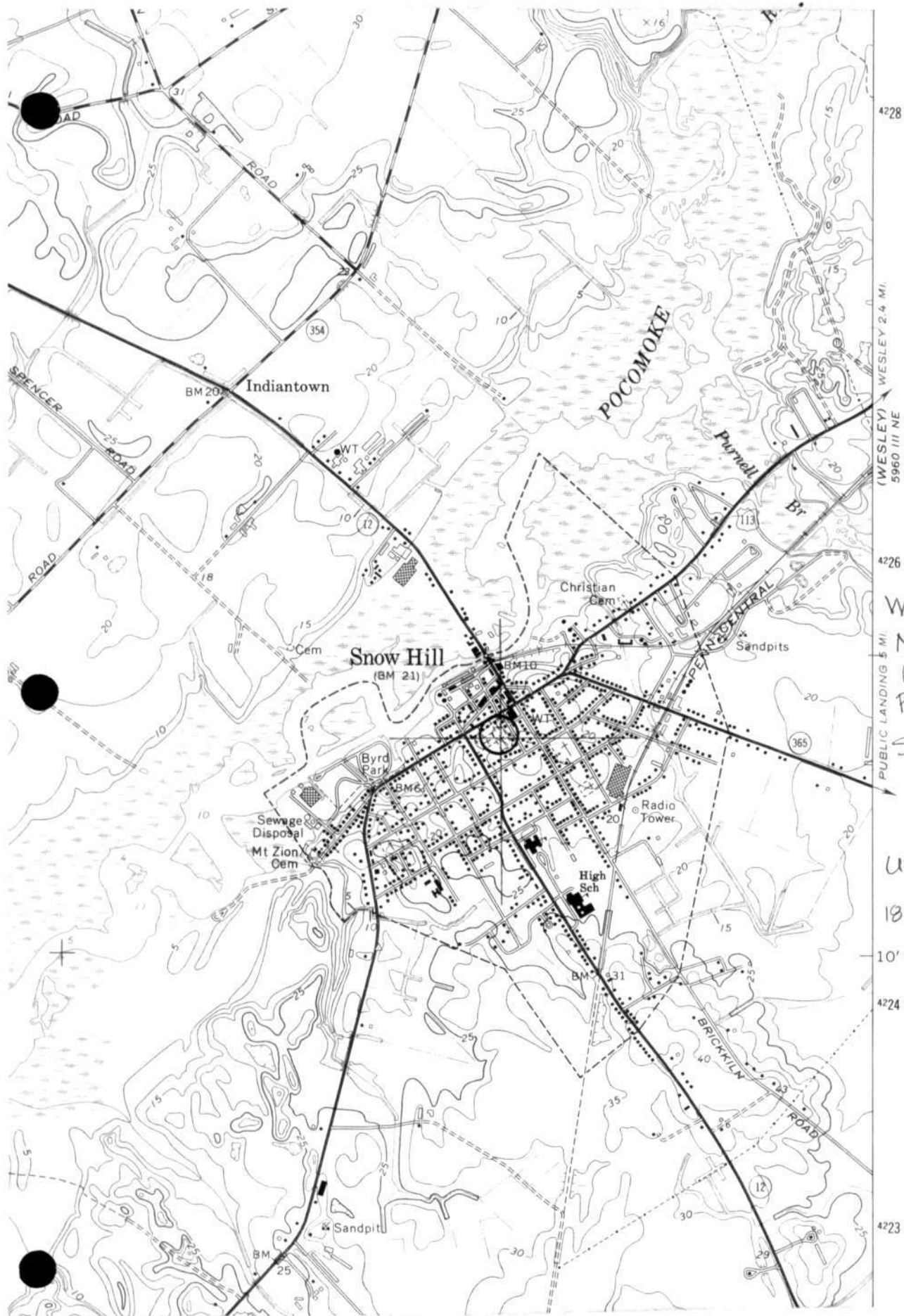
WORCESTER CO.

1877
LAKE, GRIFFIN & STEVENSON
ATLAS

1895 SANBORN
FIRE INSURANCE MAP

WO-103
Makemie Memorial Presbyterian
Church
Worcester County, MD





4228

(WESLEY) WESLEY 2.4 MI.
5960 III NE

4226

W0-103
Makemie
Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Snow Hill,
Worcester County,
MD

UTM Reference :
18/465507/4225383

10'

4224

4223



W0-103

MARTIN MONUMENTAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SNOW HILL, WORCESTER CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

8/05, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



W0-103

MAKEMIE MEMORIAL

, 1875, 711 21 1/2 ft. x 11 1/2 ft.
SNOW HILL, WORCESTER Co., MD.

NEW ELEVATION

8/05, PAUL TOWART, PRSTR.

NEED. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST



W6 107

MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRES.

CHURCH

Snow Hill, Worcester Co.,
MD

NW TOWER ENTRANCE

8/05, Paul Towler, PHOTO.

W&P / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

A black and white photograph of a stone pillar, likely part of a church building. The pillar is constructed from rough-hewn stone blocks. A rectangular plaque is embedded in the lower portion of the pillar, featuring engraved text. The pillar is situated next to a brick wall, and some low-lying plants are visible at its base.

MAKING
MEMORIAL
CHURCH
1887-9

WU-103

MAKEMEE Abenaki Pres.

Church

Snow Hill, Worcester Co. MD.

8/05, PAUL TOUART, photo.

NEZ./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



WD-103

WILLIAM MONROE TATE, CHAIR
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SUN ELEVATION

8/05, PANE TOWARD, PITHYKADITEN

NEB./MD HISTORICAL TRUST



W0-103

MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRES. POTTER
SNOW ICE, WORLESTON C. MD.
SE ELEVATION

8/05, PAUL TOWSE, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEA/MD HISTORICAL TRUST



W0-113

MARTINE MANOIR Pres. Council
Snow Hill, Worcester Co., MD.

Came to my

2/05, PAUL THURAT, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEE. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-103
Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church
Snow Hill
public worship

1888-1889

Designed by Philadelphia architect, Isaac Pursell (1853-1910), the Makemie Memorial Presbyterian church is perhaps the best documented building in Worcester County. Surviving in a collection of church papers are hundreds of records including day books, receipts, lists of materials, laborers, as well as freight costs that thoroughly document the construction of this High Gothic Revival style brick church. A short notice in the Democratic Messenger, published on March 10, 1888, announced that construction was planned to start that spring. The article related,

We learn that arrangements are being made to commence work early this spring on the Makemie Memorial Church to be erected in town. The Building Committee held a meeting on last Thursday and decided to push the work along as rapidly as possible. Mr. Purcell, the Philadelphia architect, who has been employed by the committee was present and submitted a plan which was determined upon. The committee also concluded to employ a master mason to superintend the work. The plan is a novel one after the Gothic style of architecture.

That May the schooner, George S. Richardson, arrived in Snow Hill loaded with 45,000 finishing brick from the kilns of William Perot of Baltimore.

The roughly cruciform main church is lighted by large Gothic arched windows filled with colored glass. The front street elevation is dominated by two unequal-sized entrance and bell towers sheathed with a combination of slate and metal ribs. Metal sheathed pinnacles highlight the base of each spire, whereas decorative metal finials or intricate cresting accentuate the top of each spire. Attached to the rear of the main church is a Sunday School and service wing. The sanctuary is enhanced by an exposed hammer-beam truss roof, supported in part by two iron columns.

The altar and sanctuary furnishings also carry highly decorative Gothic motifs that enrich the interior design. No other church in Worcester County repeats such an ambitious expression of the Gothic Revival.

The history of the Snow Hill Presbyterian church, however, dates to the late seventeenth century, when Francis Makemie, for whom the church is a memorial, organized early Presbyterian meetings in what was then Somerset County. Aside from the Snow Hill church he started several other congregations including one at Rehobeth on the Pocomoke River, another at the head of the Manokin River, and yet another in Accomac County, Virginia.

The original Snow Hill church, "...a plain building thirty feet long..." is thought to have been built around 1683 on a site along the river. This early building was replaced by the 1740s with a frame structure erected on a new site that was purchased formally by Adam Spence, Thomas Milbourn, and Matthew Hopkins on June 8, 1748. Transferred for L12, Lot 32 was described at the time as,

...all that Lot or Parcel of Land in Snowhill Town in the said County of Worcester whereon the protestant Presbeteriann Dissienting meeting House hath been Lately Built and now Standeth Called and Known by the Name of Lot Number thirty two--according to the Survey thereof Lately made...(Deed Book, B/78)

In 1795, the congregation decided to replace the 1740s frame building with a brick structure that served the ~~the~~ Snow Hill Presbyterians nearly one hundred years until the congregation decided to embark on the construction of the fourth edifice.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: MARCEMIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN
Church

MHT Inventory Number: W0-103

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE, RELIGION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL-URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. CHURCH

2. OBJECTS

b. CEMETERY

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-103

Magi No. 2401035608

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 103 West Market Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church

street & number 103 West Market Street telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. WO-103

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Makemie Memorial Presbyterian church stands on the south side of West Market Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The High Victorian Gothic brick church faces northwest, and a cemetery is located to the south and west of the building.

Designed by Philadelphia architect, Isaac Purcell and erected in 1888-89, the single-story stretcher bond brick church follows a cruciform plan roughly with two- and three-story entrance and bell towers filling the inside front corners. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story wing that houses the Sunday School and service rooms. Asphalt shingles cover the main roof, while the towers are sheathed with a combination of slate and metal surfaces. A brick wall extends around the perimeter of the churchyard, and it was erected in memory of John Walter Smith, a prominent local businessman who served as governor of Maryland for four years and longer as a representative from Worcester County in the Maryland General Assembly.

The northwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with towers flanking a center Gothic arched colored glass window. The rusticated red stone foundation and sandstone arches that highlight the doors and windows contrast with the smooth brick walls. Above the center window a decorative brick corbelling accentuates the gable end. Flanking the center gable is a three-story tower to the north and a two-story tower to the south. The corners of both towers are marked by buttresses that extend to a second story level. On the north face of each tower between the buttresses are Gothic arched, double-door openings. The first floor elevation of each tower is marked by double or single Gothic arched, colored glass windows, while the second floor is pierced by tri-partite windows of colored glass. The south, two-story tower is capped by a short octagonal spire with corner pinnacles topped by intricately shaped finials. The ribs, a mid-section, and the spire top are covered with metal. There is a delicate iron cresting that distinguishes the spire. The north, three-story tower is marked by large Gothic arched openings on each face of the belfry, and a taller octagonal spire rises with metal ribs and a decorative metal finial. Likewise metal sheathed pinnacles highlight each corner.

The northeast and southwest sides are similar with the gable end filled with a Gothic arched colored glass window. Smaller segmental arched windows and side doors fill the adjacent bays. The back end (southeast) of the main block is covered fully by the rear hip roof wing which is lighted by an assortment of single or paired windows.

The sanctuary occupies a tee-shaped space created by the cruciform shaped main block with an exposed hammerbeam truss roof. The two central columns that carry a pair of trusses are cast iron. The pews are arranged in a semi-circular plan with the raised altar along the south wall. The wall surfaces combine narrow, beaded board wainscoting and plaster. The sanctuary ceiling is decorated wooden ornament and tri-foil cut out designs mark the arched braces. The church furniture and chandeliers carry Gothic inspired designs. Double door, Gothic arched openings with colored glass transoms in a few cases mark the various doorways.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-103

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888 Builder/Architect Isaac Purcell, architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Makemie Memorial Presbyterian church is one of the few architect-designed buildings on the Eastern Shore for which there is a complete record of its construction in 1888-1889. Designed by Philadelphia architect, Isaac Purcell, the High Victorian Gothic brick church was erected with superior materials and craftsmanship for the time. Materials were gathered from a wide range of sources including Baltimore, Philadelphia, in addition to local craftsmen. Not only is the church distinguished by its pair of decorative entrance towers, but the structure stands out as a highly impressive landmark in Snow Hill. Historically, a Presbyterian congregation has existed in town since the church was organized around 1684. The Victorian building is the fourth structure to house the congregation. The site of the third church, a brick building erected in 1795, is located in the center of the cemetery behind the present structure.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-103

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Worcester County	date	4/28/88
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone	(301) 632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill	state	MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

2401034608

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Worcester</u> TOWN <u>Snow Hill</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>103 W. Market St.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>religious</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Makemie Mem. Presby. Church</u> PRESENT USE <u>religious</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick + stone</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>WO-103</u> 2. NAME <u>Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1887-89</u> STYLE <u>Gothic</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>yes</u> <p>Makemie Presbyterian Church was built in 1887-89. It is constructed of brick on rough cut stone foundation with the same stone used as trim around the windows, doors, buttresses and as belt courses around the towers. It is built in the Gothic style. Essentially, the building is laid out in the form of a cross with each of the vacant corners thereof 'filled' with, two towers on the street facade and service across in the rear. On each of the four gables of the cross is a huge stain glass window. Entrance is gained through a double door in each tower. The towers have lancet windows, buttresses and octagonally shaped spires, each with a decorative finial and turrets. The east tower contains the bell and is consequently much taller than the other. All of the building has the same reddish cast and green trim and the woodwork.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>	
<p>The roof is covered with composition shingles and the spires with slate.</p>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>W.P.A. Guide, p 444.</u> <u>Robertson, John W., Land of the</u> <u>Evergreen, The Eastern Shore</u> <u>News, Inc., Onancock, Va., 1963</u> <u>pp 137</u>	7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Nov. 1969</u>

WO-103

MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Snow Hill, Maryland

B/78

John Martin

6/8/1748

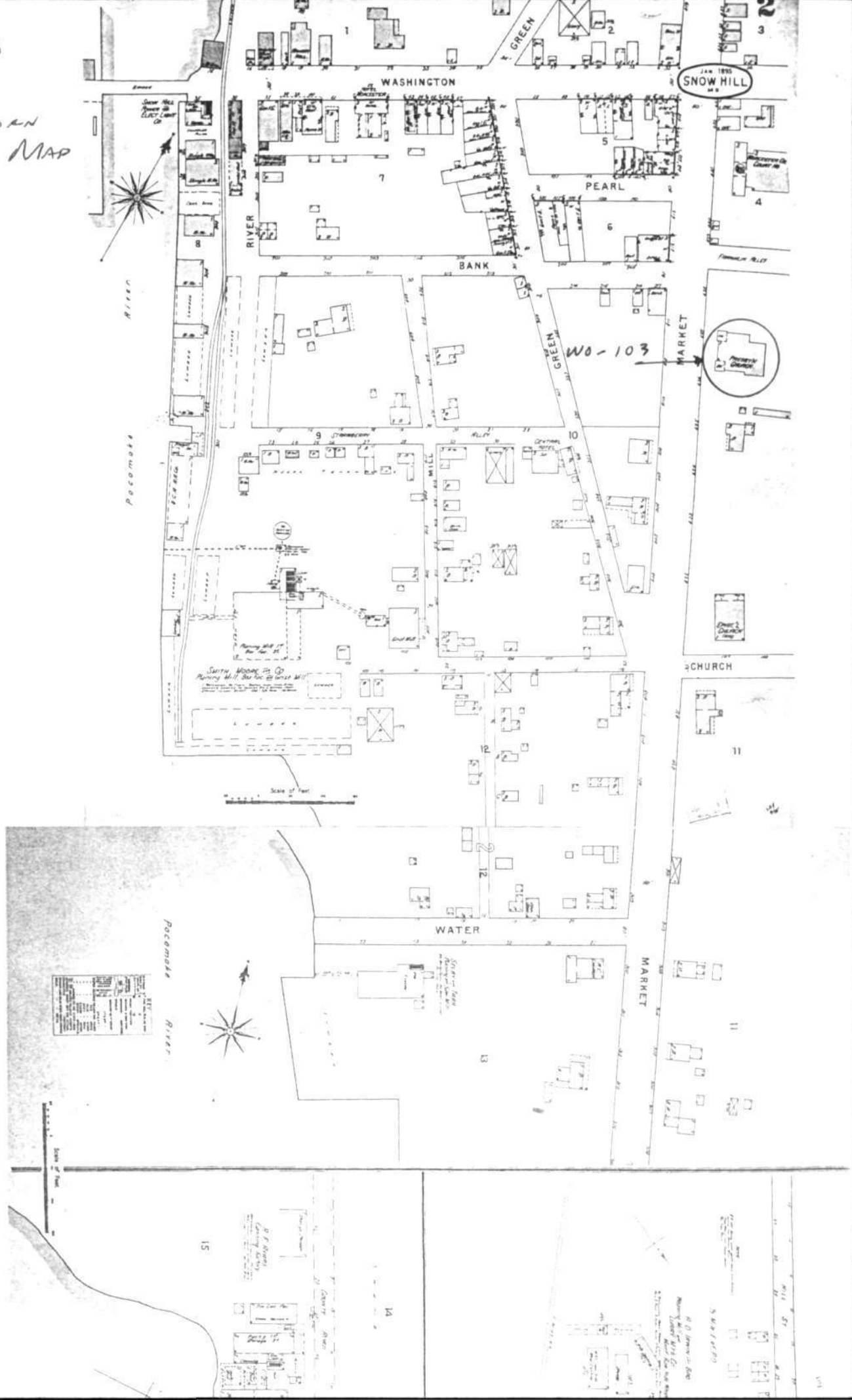
to

Adam Spence, Thomas Milbourn, and
Matthew Hopkins

£12 "...all that Lot or parcel of
Land in Snowhill Town in the
said County of Worcester whereon
the protestant Presbyterian
Dissenting meeting House hath
been Lately Built and now Standeth
Called and known by the Name of
Lot Number thirty two--according
to the survey thereof Lately made..."

W0-103

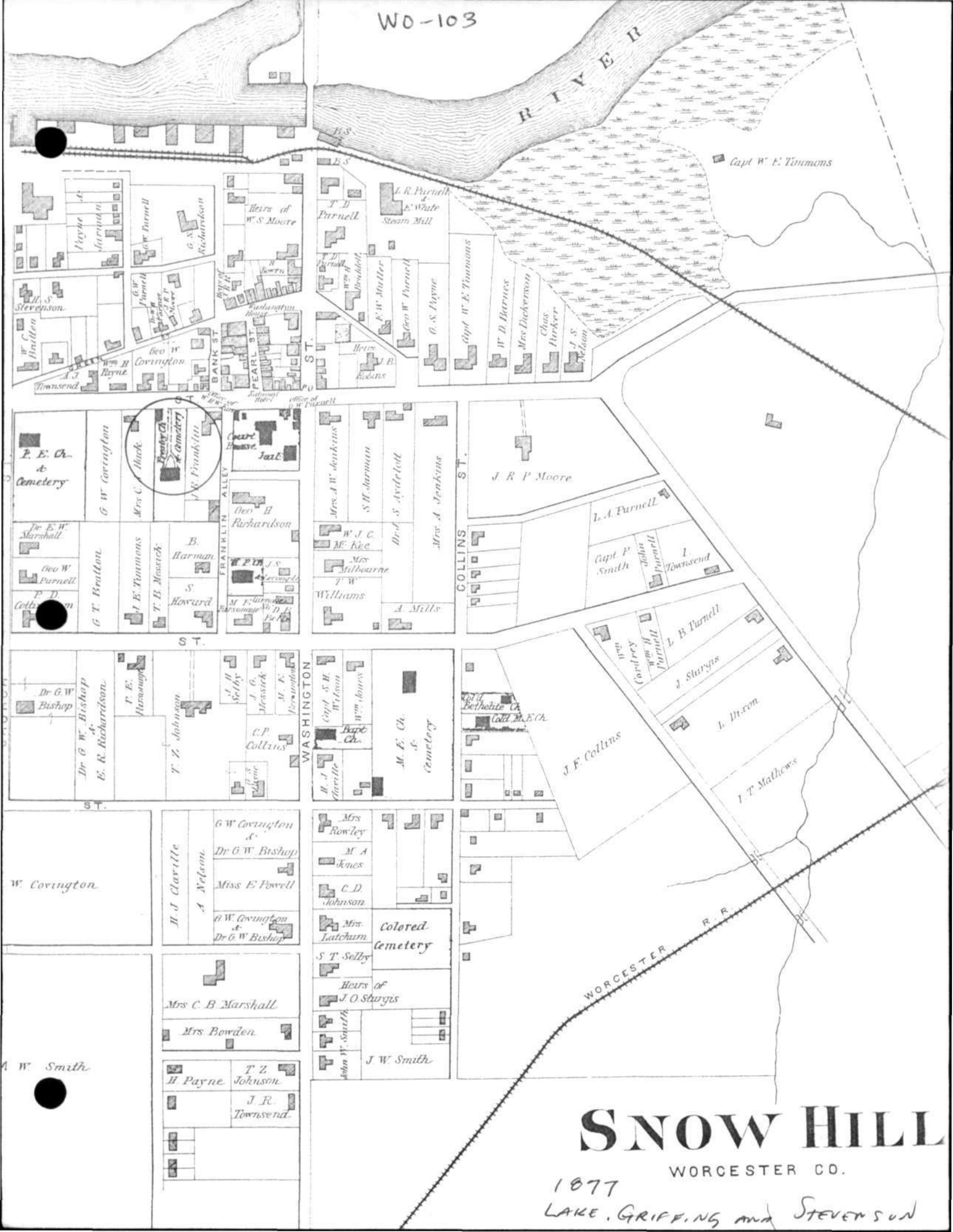
1895 SANBORN
INSURANCE MAP



W0-103

RIVER

Capt W. E. Timmons



SNOW HILL

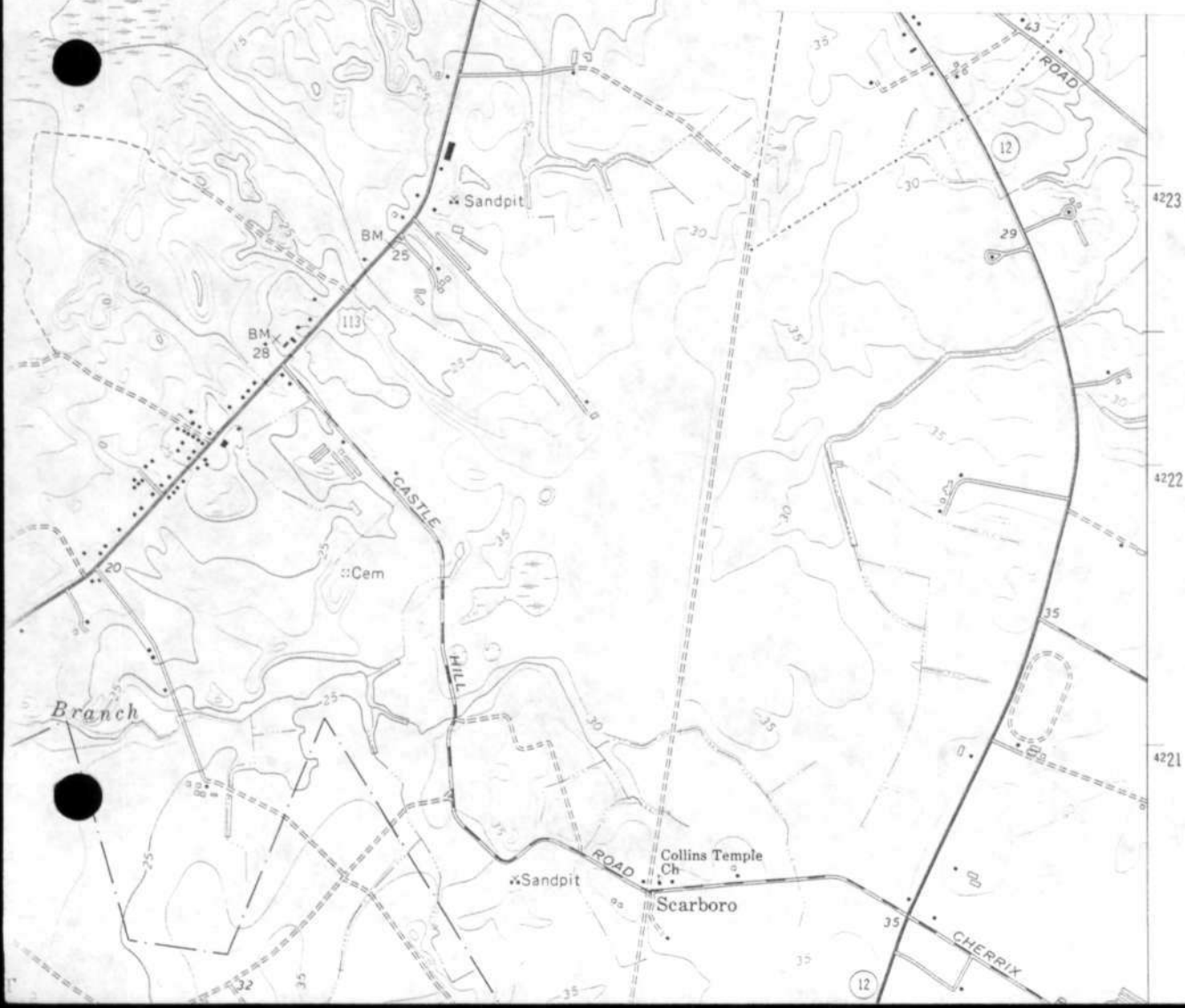
WORCESTER CO.

1877
LAKE, GRIFFING and STEVENSON



Snow Hill
166
WO-103

WO-103
MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Snow Hill Quadrangle, 1966





W1-103

MACKENZIE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SNOW HILL, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

11/98, MICHAEL H. DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC / MD. HIST. TRUST



Makemie Memorial Presbyterian church W O-103

103 West Market street, Snow Hill